



Allandale Neighbor

June 2014
Vol 29, Issue 3

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 4,500 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Allandale's Fourth of July Patriotic Parade

Joe Reynolds



Allandale's first parade marched in 1960, so this is our 55th parade. Come join the festivities. Get your best Independence Day feelings out and come participate. We'll have Independence re-enactors, drummers, antique and classic cars, and hopefully a fire truck. It's customary to dress in costume and to decorate strollers, bikes, trikes, and walkers.

Pets can dress too. If you can walk on stilts or juggle, well, come show off. Horses are at the rear of the parade.

The parade organizes at the intersection of Bullard and White Rock; gathering about 8:30 a.m. The march starts at 9:00 a.m. The route is north on Bullard to

Gullett Elementary School. There we'll sing songs and celebrate under the awning. We may get an Amy's truck and other treats. Volunteers are always needed for set-up, clean-up, and judging. If you'd like to help, please send email to allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com. ♦

Join Neighbors and ANA to Oppose Maund's Proposed Four-level Parking Garage

Peggy Maceo

Charles Maund Volkswagen is planning to build a four-level parking garage at the corner of Burnet and Pegram Avenue. There are concerns that the size, location, and use of this parking garage will erode our quality of life and degrade the character of our neighborhood. The Allandale

Neighborhood Association Executive Committee supports residents in opposing this parking garage. If you also oppose it, please sign the online petition found here: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/737/201/872/petition-to-protect-allandale/>.

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ANA's July 4th Parade starts at 9 a.m. at Bullard and White Rock, and heads towards Gullett Elementary

The next ANA EC Meeting will be July 2, 7 p.m. at the NW Rec Center, and is open to the public.

The Allandale Neighbor
is published bimonthly by the
Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA)

www.allandaleneighbor.com

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
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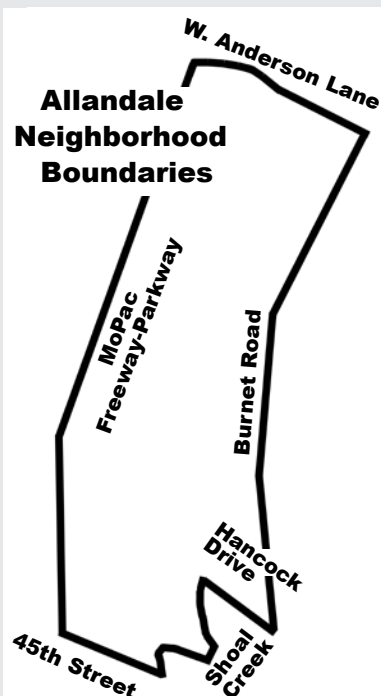
ANA General Meetings are held March and September on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.

Committees

BYLAWS Kata Carbone
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MEMBERSHIP Jeff Marshall
NOMINATING Kata Carbone
SAFETY Laura DiCarlo
ZONING AND PLANNING Nathan Vassar

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APD Region 2 District Rep (serves Allandale south of Hancock): Ofc. Josh Metteauer, 974-8124, joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov



President's Letter: Fighting the Good Fight

David Mintz

What will Allandale look like in 10 or 20 years? When much of the neighborhood was first developed in the late 40s and early 50s, there were large lots and plenty of greenery. Over so many years, it is amazing that as Austin has developed around us but, for the most part, the neighborhood retains much of its original flavor. Now however, how we respond to new development is one of the biggest issues facing us, especially as Burnet Road and Anderson Lane have become "hot" places in Austin for new restaurants, multi-family housing and shopping.

My guess is there are very few people in the neighborhood who have ever read the association's bylaws. But if you do, you'll find that our purpose is "to promote and protect the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics, and property values of the neighborhood primarily and all neighbors generally; to identify and assess issues of importance to the residents of the Allandale area and to promote participation by area residents in activities that affect their neighborhood. ANA should actively engage in activities that aid and are necessary to support these purposes."

That mandate has never been a stronger part of our guiding principles. As I wrote in our last newsletter, ANA took the difficult challenge of taking on a developer who re-subdivided a lot at 5415/5417 Woodview to court because the re-subdivisions violated deed restriction amendments that were adopted in

1982. While we were successful in obtaining a temporary restraining order against the developer, we were unable to secure the next step of getting a temporary injunction.

Faced with the prospects of a very large legal debt and uncertain of how the judge would rule, last month the Executive Committee voted to settle the suit. Although it wasn't the outcome we would have liked, the reality is that hopefully we've put future developers on notice that we intend to fight with whatever resources we have to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood. Likewise we are still considering a challenge to the re-subdivision of 5111 Woodview (which has different facts in the case and which violates a deed restriction going back to the original documents).

We have also become involved in two other ongoing issues. One deals with an attempt to re-zone three properties on the eastern end of Northland Drive from single family to commercial. Two of the properties (2117 and 2119 Northland) are owned by Briley's Upholstery, which wants to open a showroom at 2119, while the owner of a third property at 2121 Northland wants to open a small retail establishment. While there is fair discussion about whether these may be laudable goals, the reality is that changing the use of the properties at 2119 and 2121 Northland means there will be encroach-



David Mintz

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Executive Committee Member Profiles

In the past two newsletters, you've met most of your eleven ANA EC members, in your service until September 2015. Here are the final three!

Jeff Marshall, Secretary



I have been at Bazaarvoice for three years this summer, working as a manager of Implementation Services.

I moved to Austin summer of 1997 and have been in Allandale since summer 2008. Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas.

What I love best about Allandale: the neighborhood vibe, going on family bike rides to Northwest Park, or walking to

local eateries; the proximity to everything is a huge plus.

My favorite event in Allandale is the Fourth of July community parade!

Naji Norder, EC



Electrical engineer at National Instruments

I have lived in the Austin area for 14 years, Allandale for 2.5 years. After 10 years in a suburb with everything 20 minutes away by car, I wanted a house in the urban core where I had better transportation options and a wider variety for nearby shopping and dining.

What I love best about Allandale are

the amazing large lots and pretty cottages— it feels so unique among the city's central neighborhoods.

My favorite time in Allandale is a leisurely walk to Burnet, or a calm drive up Shoal Creek to Anderson. Why rush from place to place when I can enjoy getting there, too?

Laura Slaughter, EC



Registered nurse specializing in geriatrics and hospice. Broker/Owner Dominion Properties Real Estate and regional manager for a high school foreign

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Executive Committee Member Profiles

Continued from page 3

exchange program.

I came to Allandale in 1988 where I rented, then purchased my own home. My father's family arrived in Austin from Germany in the 1800s and started dairy farming in Austin, and we have been here ever since. I have two daughters, one cat and one escape-artist dog.

What I love best about Allandale is my

neighbors and Allandale's commitment to maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood. This past Christmas, the 7700 block of Shoal Creek neighbors put together yard displays depicting the 12 days of Christmas. The designs were creative, ingenious and unifying. Best neighbors ever!

My favorite time in Allandale is late

spring and early summer. I enjoy seeing people with towels heading toward the pool at Northwest Park, bicyclists, animals on walks, and the blooming vegetation. Most of all, I really enjoy the Fourth of July parade and subsequent ceremony. It elicits memories of community, patriotism, and values held as a child, and still through this event, present today. ❖

Burnet Road and Anderson Lane Corridor Study in the Works

Tom Linehan

At the Allandale Neighborhood Association May 7 Executive Committee Meeting, city staff provided information on an upcoming Burnet Road/Anderson Lane Corridor study. Approval to move forward with the study was scheduled for the City Council's May 22 agenda and tied in with a neighborhood planning process

for North Central Austin. The neighborhood planning process would involve developing neighborhood plans for the three neighborhoods on the west side of Burnet Road: Allandale, Rosedale, and North Shoal Creek, and revisions to existing Crestview-Wooten and Brentwood-Highland neighborhood plans on

the east side. According to the backup materials staff provided City Council, "the planning process will develop a number of goals, policy and capital improvement recommendations, transportation improvements, housing strategies, and land plans to address the evolving nature of these significant corridors."

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"More studies!" you say; so did some of the members of the Executive Committee at the May meeting. In fact, with the recent CodeNEXT project, ANA's challenge to two recent neighborhood subdivisions, getting residential permit parking for streets near the soon-to-come Little Woodrows, and preparing a challenge to Charles Maund's multi-level parking garage on Burnet Road, our neighborhood association is being stretched thin. Sure Allandale wants a say in the corridor study, but can it wait? And what is this North Central Austin neighborhood planning process? ANA's EC voted against participating in the neighborhood planning process in December pending the results of the City's CodeNEXT project. Naturally, when Jennifer Todd and Mark Walters, staff members of the City's Planning and Development Review Office, briefed the EC on the upcoming study, there were questions and some hesitation.

According the handout City Staff provided at the meeting, the goal of the plan

is described as follows:

"Grounded in the priorities set forth in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, plans for Burnet Road and Anderson Lane will help manage future growth and change along Burnet Road from 45th to 183 and Anderson Lane from MoPac to Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority's railroad tracks. The plan will include urban design recommendations, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, and a vision and strategic recommendations for creating a more walkable corridor."

When the matter came before the City Council on May 22, it was postponed until the June 12 council meeting. Council member Laura Morrison, who had the item pulled from the consent agenda, explained to the Council that there were too many questions left unanswered about how the proposed planning process was going to work and how it would be coordinated with CodeNEXT. She had received comments from representatives of the affected neighborhoods who felt

the resolution needed more focus. "There is no question that the corridor study is needed and should be conducted," Morrison said; however, including the corridor study in with a neighborhood plan when Allandale had opted out of such plan needed further discussion. She also conveyed the concern that neighborhood resources are tapped out when you combine CodeNEXT, the Corridor Plan, and the Neighborhood Plan. It is asking a lot.

Instead she asked that city staff arrange a meeting with interested council members, staff, and the affected neighborhoods to work through these issues. Mayor Pro-Tem Sheryl Cole and Council members Kathy Tovo and Chris Riley expressed an interest in being a part of those meetings. Council member Morrison's motion to postpone the item until June 12 was unanimously approved. More information about the outcome of the meeting and the item scheduled for the June 12 council meeting will be posted on the Allandale list-serv and web site. ❖

Don't miss the 4th of July Parade! It starts promptly at 9 a.m. at the Bullard and White Rock intersection, and finishes up at Gullett Elementary.

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Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

Since the April newsletter, high end bicycle thefts and a rogue driver on Great Northern have dominated the discussion about safety in Allandale. Other activity has included a Commander's Forum, a bicycle registration event, and a kidnapping and robbery that started at Walmart. In addition, listserv posts have relayed information about a possible door to door scam, a motorcycle theft, and other petty thefts.

Not counting the bicycle burglaries, there have been four Burglaries of Residences (BORs) and 10 Burglaries of Vehicles (BOVs) since the last newsletter. This seems like great news as it's nine less than the April newsletter's for BOR, and 14 less for BOV. However, again, this doesn't include the bicycle burglaries.

The bicycle burglaries, which have all occurred in the Allandale/Rosedale and Zilker/Barton Hills neighborhoods between the hours of 2:00 and 3:30 a.m., have caught the media's attention. Pam LeBlanc stated in her May 12 Statesman article that more than 30 high end bike burglaries occurred between November 2013 and May 2014. According to Allan-

dale block captain Steven Mullins, the total is now at 38 (29 in Allandale / Rosedale). Mullins, who had thousands of dollars' worth of bikes stolen from his home on March 27, is leading the effort (with an anonymous partner) to help APD solve the string of burglaries and warn potential victims. LeBlanc mentioned a case in Allandale where the perpetrators entered a house through the kitchen window while the family was home sleeping. Most of the thefts have occurred while families are home sleeping. As such, APD has stepped up the number of patrol cars in Allandale late at night.

The April 1 APD Commander's Forum at McCallum High School was better attended than usual (about 45 residents came); discussion indicated this was because of the bike issue. Detective Evonne McGuire, who is partnering with Detective David Knutsen to head up efforts to solve the cases, reported that most of the bikes were stolen by breaking into a shed, garage, or even a house (not just taken from a carport), which is why APD considers many of them Burglaries of Residences (BORs) instead of thefts. Most of the bicycles were high end, and folks with bike racks or who bike frequently in the neighborhood, may have

been targeted. APD is looking for trends and encouraged everyone to record serial numbers and register bikes, lock bikes within garages, make sure sheds are locked, etc. Detective McGuire urged us to report suspicious activity and to report every time we have something stolen because even if your case is not solved, the police can see trends and better understand what is going on in general.

Two more high end bikes were stolen on Twin Oaks May 4. The perpetrators did not come into the house, but they broke down the door from the patio into the garage. According to the victim, they knew exactly what they wanted because they stole the high-end bikes while the kids' bikes were untouched. This revived listserv discussion about cameras and alarms.

There was a bike registration event April 27 where our APD District Representative officer Jud Chapman gave instructions on how to register your bike online: people fill out the form (including make, model, serial number, frame size, wheel size, how many speeds, color, and value) and keep it for their records. To actually register the bike people submit the info online at www.austintexas.gov/department/police/services.

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While an April 17 KVUE story reported that a man was arrested for a string of bike thefts, this may not be connected to the Allandale thefts.

Our other major safety news is an incident on Great Northern Blvd on April 26, discussed widely: a heavy set white man with reddish hair and a short cropped beard driving a 2013 or 2014 white Dodge Challenger with a black center section on the hood and temporary tags attempted to hit or run several cyclists off the road. The driver made three passes along a stretch of the road, swerving across traffic and into the bike lane numerous times directly at riders. A man who was pulling his son in a trailer crashed but was not hit by the vehicle. Other riders rode into the brush to get out of his way. The driver also took aim at a woman running with her son in a jogging stroller. Per KVUE, "APD Detective Jarrett Crippen is investigating this case and says road rage cases like this are rare, so they are taking this very seriously. Anyone with information should call 512-974-5071 and reference case number 14-5018938."

There are two other incidents of which to be aware: a possible scam and a kid-

napping. A resident reported that a tall white male with dark hair and a beard came to his house on Rickey purporting to be an energy auditor for the City of Austin (COA). The resident let the "auditor" (who was wearing a bright orange vest that looked official) in, and made an appointment for an energy audit for a week later (March 25). The "auditor" never came back for the appointment, so the resident called the City who said COA doesn't go door to door and that it was probably a scam to see inside his house.

KVUE also reported an April 17 kidnapping: "father and son told police they returned to their car in the Walmart parking lot to find an armed man inside. He forced them to drive to the victims' home on Lazy Lane, as another man followed. The two suspects then robbed the home as the victims escaped unharmed. According to the arrest affidavit, Matthew James Martinez, 24,

is charged aggravated robbery and kidnapping. Both are first degree felonies. The other robber has not been identified."

This was an incident that involved folks who just happened to be in Allandale, but the fact that it started here indicates we need to be vigilant. As always, please contact me at lhdicarlo@yahoo.com or 512-529-1701 if you are interested in becoming a block captain, patrol, or graffiti remover. Call 311 or the detectives if you have information about any of the cases mentioned in this article. ❖

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AVG SALES PRICE	\$407,775	\$444,305
AVG SQ FT OF SOLD PROPERTIES	1914 SQ FT	1885 SQ FT
AVG DAYS ON MARKET	23 DAYS	34 DAYS

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for single family residence as of May 31, 2014. For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker.

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Allandale Gardener – Surviving the Texas Heat

Sarah Herman

With the temperatures climbing, it's important to think about how we can help our leafy friends make it through the heat. Summer heat can be stressful on plants, especially during a drought like the one Central Texas is currently experiencing. Here are some tips to manage your yard and garden to help get through the next few months.

Let it Grow: Now is the time to let your lawn grow. Only use the highest setting on your mower when cutting the grass. Cut it often enough that you are just trimming a very small amount of grass at a time to reduce stress on the grass. The longer the lawn becomes, the more it can typically withstand the high temperatures. The result is that the lawn will be less likely to scorch and will fare better during the current watering restrictions. Eventually your lawn will go dormant in the extreme heat. The lawn will look brown and will stop growing—this is okay! It means you can put your feet up, drink an iced tea and know that you've saved some water and your lawn for next year. You still need to water very occa-

sionally (the frequency is specific to the type of grass you have) to keep the roots alive, but your mowing requirements will be minimal at this point.

Mulch, and then mulch again: A few inches of thick native mulch can be your best friend this time of year. Mulch keeps moisture in, helping to protect the plants, and helps to keep weeds out. This not only helps the aesthetic appearance of your garden, but also helps to keep away other plants that could compete for water. Every drop counts!

Drip irrigation: A drip irrigation system, constructed under your thick layer of mulch, is the best way to directly water your plants and not waste a single drop of this precious resource. These can be easily setup with some readily available supplies at your local home improvement store.

Plan for the future: If you do lose some grass or plants during the summer months, don't automatically plan to replace it with sod next spring—consider building a native garden full of butterfly attracting flowers and grasses. Such gardens help to maintain local biodiversity,

help our animal pals survive the summer (it's hot for them too!) and can be a beautiful interest piece to add to your yard.

Utilize Native Species: Native species are used to the extreme heat of Central Texas and often are drought tolerant and therefore fare better in this climate. The peak of summer is not the best time to start new plants as the heat can be very stressful on a plant trying to establish itself, but if you do lose any non-natives throughout the summer, start thinking about what native species you can replace it with once the temperatures cool. There are many beautiful options that will simply thrive.

Don't forget about yourself! Work in the early hours of the day to beat the heat. Bring plenty of water for yourself, and don't forget the sunscreen and hat. A central Texas Summer, while fun to garden through, is best enjoyed from the shade of your patio with an iced tea in your hand. Happy summer!

NOTE: this article, and these suggestions, do not pertain to trees. For advice on trees and Texas summer, consult your arborist. ❖

Have you joined ANA's Newsgroup?

Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/> to sign up.

Vacation Bible School.....June 9-13
Soccer Camp July.....July 21-24




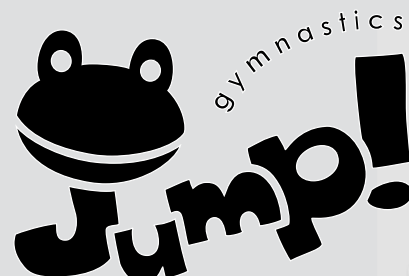
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Fencing – En Garde at the Northwest Rec Center

Ron Lucey

Youth from our neighborhood continue to have a great time at the recreation center's fencing class. There is a good mix of both boy and girl competitors. For many, the idea of sport fencing brings to mind the swashbuckling movies from days of yore, but today's Olympic sport of fencing is much different, even if it does share the same roots of armed combat.

Sport fencers focus on small, explosive moves that deceive and surprise the opponent. Precise hand/eye coordinated actions couple with balanced footwork and changes of direction. Yet all the physical skills of an athlete are nothing without the tactics of "The Game." Although fencing is considered a combat sport, it does not rely on arm strength. As a matter of fact, it is the one combat sport where women can often hold their own against male competitors. It is also more affordable than many people think. Its days of being considered an elite sport for the wealthy are gone.

Coach Gary M. van der Wege of VANDER-WEGE ACADEMIE d'ARMES has seen his share of high quality fencers over the years. "The best fencers are the ones who have the drive to stay with the sport. It takes a person who can learn from being defeated. I was not very good when I started out," van der Wege says, yet he went on to win six US National Championships and represent the US in Athens in 2004 and London in 2012. "If you can have fun doing this sport, you will get a lot out of it. Discipline, Honor and an Olympic Sport. What more could you want for a child to learn?" adds van der Wege.

Your chance to check out this exciting sport is

right here in our own neighborhood. VANDERWEGE ACADEMIE offers fencing at the Northwest Recreation Center on Wednesday evenings. Additionally, Coach Gary will be doing a Foil Camp at Northwest Recreation Center on August 4 through 7, from 1:15-4:00 p.m. You can find more information on Coach Gary and his classes at www.TheFencingAcademy.net or e-mail him: wedge@austin.rr.com. ❖

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Active Allandale: Keep Allandale Running!

Ashley Thompson

If you're ever on Shoal Creek Boulevard before the sun rises, you may have seen a humble pack of runners headed to and from 2222. You may have heard snippets of conversation punctuated by the wee chirp of a watch and the perplexing command WALK! Who is out so early and why do they keep walking on their run? Meet the team of A.C.T. Running, ACT-running.com.

We are a small but growing club that gets together in the neighborhood before work or school to melt the miles away with good conversation. Most people didn't run before joining (or believe they even could!) but a good majority keep coming back week after week to sweat, chat with new friends and prepare for the next race. My philosophy as a coach is to help new or returning runners avoid the most common mistake: doing too much, too soon. In order to do this, we start slowly for a short distance, and employ carefully timed walk breaks. In shop talk, we obey the rule of Training Adaptation and the Hard/Easy Principal, which I will explain.

Training Adaptations

In the first few weeks that you start to exercise, your body can adapt relatively quickly. The systems in your body, however, don't all adapt at the same rate. Several, like your neurological, circulatory and pulmonary systems, will improve rapidly. Your muscles take a little longer, but you'll still have major improvement in less than a month. So why not leap into 20 miles a week the first month then? Your skeletal/connective tissue takes the longest to get used to the training. Your ligaments and tendons take anywhere from six weeks to six months to adapt, and often don't offer feedback as obviously as the other systems. If you run too fast, your heart and lungs will tell you to back off immediately by pounding hard or making you gasp for air. Meanwhile, the parts that connect the muscle to the bone will let you keep pushing too hard for weeks until you injure yourself. Therefore, it is best to let connective tissue set the pace for sensible progression. What does a perfect training program have? A little bit of hard, a little bit of easy.

The Hard/Easy Principal

Your training schedule should be based on the Hard/Easy principal. For every "Hard" workout, you should have an "Easy" follow up. That could mean one day on then a day or two off. Our ACT Running Run/Walk philosophy demonstrates this principal on a micro-level. Add a little, take a little off to recover. In fact, recovery time is a vital for all runners—without rest, you'll become weaker and prone to injury.

These approaches, combined with the perfect backdrop of Allandale, works magic. We have miles of flat Shoal Creek Boulevard, the soft grass of Northwest Park, the charming tree-lined homes, and we can easily access the hills of Far West. Our runners all join for different reasons: to exercise, to socialize, for motivation. But I think they keep coming back for the community. Bob, a Vietnam vet, runs with his service Yorkie dog, Baxter. Bob started a couple years ago after a heart attack and can now complete a half marathon in a moment's notice. Katie, a Neo-

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natologist, started doing 12-13 minute miles. She ran a 9:05 one mile time-trial after a few consistent months. Elizabeth, a program specialist with the Texas Department of Housing, cracks us up on our online log with epic workout stories that often read like poetry. We'd love you to come out and join us too, anytime!

While we can't all one day catch up to Me Keflezighi, you can enter the sport of running from where you are. I believe consistency, rather than speed, defines a

runner. And because the exercise has a gradient level of entry, it is accessible a wide variety of people. Think of the crowd at a marathon. What other sport allows absolute beginners and professionals to participate simultaneously? As long as you respect the rule of Training Adaptation and guide your training using the Hard/Easy principal, most people can become runners in six to eight weeks. After that, you'll have your lifetime to perfect it!

Editor's Note: Ashley Thompson is an RRCA certified distance running coach and Allandale neighbor. Her ACT Running flagship program is called "Become A Runner," an eight-week session that uses scheduled walk breaks to gradually increase distance and endurance; perfect for absolute beginners or those returning from a hiatus. ACT Running meets most mornings at Ramsey Park; schedules and more info at ACTRunning.com or email Ashley at actrunning@gmail.com. ♦

Hover Flies

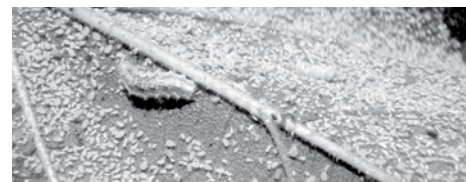
Wizzie Brown

Hover flies, also known as syrphid flies or flower flies, are bee and wasp mimics. You can tell that they are flies because they only have two wings (bees and wasps have four wings). They can range in size from one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch long. Most are black with yellow markings and wings are that are held out to the side when at rest.

Hover flies are great fliers and are capable of hovering or even flying backward. Adults and larvae are considered beneficial: adults because they help to pollinate plants and larvae for feeding on aphids and other insects. Hover flies cannot sting.

Hover flies have complete metamorphosis with four life stages— egg, larva, pupa and adult. Females lay whitish-grey oblong eggs singly near aphids. Larvae are legless and carrot shaped. The larvae may vary in color but most have a stripe running the length of the back. Pupae are pear shaped and typically found on the plant or soil surface. There can be up to seven generations per year.

Adult flies feed on pollen and nectar and may also be attracted to honeydew, which is caused by sucking insects such as aphids, mealybugs and scale insects. Adults are typically found around flowers.



Larvae feed on aphids and other small, soft-bodied insects. Larvae move along the plant surface looking for prey. When they find something, they grasp it, suck it dry and discard the skin. Pupae are non-feeding.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512-854-9600. Also check out www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com. ♦

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Allandale Neighbor Spotlight: Smiley (Brian) Riley

Laura Beck

Oh, he's not going to like that nickname, but it fits. Who hasn't seen the very kind, friendly, smiling man walking his cute black Scottie dog nearly every day, twice a day in Allandale? That man, Brian Riley, says his hand is permanently raised from all his waving at neighbors. Since he is about to celebrate his 79th birthday next month, it's time we know more about the man behind the smile and the wave.

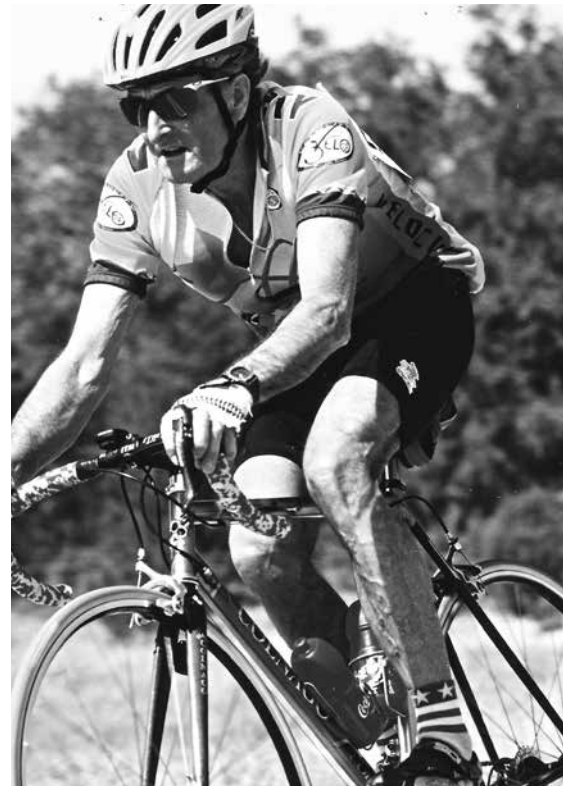
You can learn a lot about Brian from the great article written by Allandale neighbor Clair Melton in Outdoor Austin. See it here: <http://outdooraustin.com/brian-riley/>. A quick thumbnail: Brian Riley is a Brit who has been a competitive cyclist since he was 14 years old, continuing to cycle 40 mile routes four times a week. Wow!

What impresses me more is Brian's pulse on our neighborhood, and the friendliness he shares with others every day. I got to know Brian because my daughters and I would

see him and his dog, Spooky, most mornings as we biked to school. Brian came to Austin in 1986 and established his business, Brileys (get it, Brian Riley) Upholstery, on Northland, living nearby. You can learn more about the business in an article on the ANA website from November 2005, <http://www.allandale-neighbor.com/allandale/brileys-upholtery-shop.html>.

Even working 12 hour days, after nearly thirty years in Allandale, you know a thing or two. Brian knows what's going on with homes and renovations and new builds (though he says it's the man who owns the lumber yard on Burnet who really knows all the houses, plans, and building, then and now). He pointed out this house, and that neighbor, this garden, that old vintage car. And of course, Brian knows the other dog walking neighbors.

He says even with the changes and growth, Allandale continues to be a special place. It is a neighborhood



Brian Riley, 1999



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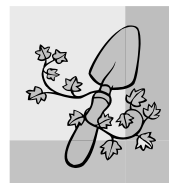
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where he never had to advertise his business. Word of mouth and neighborhood referrals helped him grow and run his shop until 2004 when, at 69 years old, he retired (and also raced in his last formal bike event, finishing first in his age group at the Pace Bend Road Race, according to Clair's article).

Brian says he loves Allandale because it is quiet, pleasant and central, though it was the last eight years walking Spooky that really helped him get to know people and the neighborhood. He agrees Allandale is getting younger with more new families and so many babies at the park, people walking kids to school. He says it's always nice to see people bringing up children in an area because it establishes a neighborhood more, makes it more friendly, and gets people meeting each other. Dogs work too, he says, "I've gotten to know the neighborhood since I've had Spooky. You get out, you expand, you do different walks and broaden your perspective."

I know Brian brightens my mornings, and he will do the same for you. So when you see a smiling man walking his Scottie, say Hello. Or if you are really brave, try to keep up with him on his 40 mile bike rides! ❖

Gullett Good News

Debbie Trominski

Gullett is a school like no other place and our Geckos had a great 2013-2014 school year. The year ended on a high note with James Butler, Gullett's beloved Pre-K teacher, being selected as AISD's Elementary School Teacher of the Year. If you've spent any time on campus, chances are that you've seen Mr. Butler leading very happy and orderly four-year-olds through the corridors of the school. His innate ability to work with the children and build a sense of community with his students and their families has caught the attention of Gullett families, and apparently, the entire school district. Before Mr. Butler joined Gullett in 2011, he taught at schools in East Austin and volunteered as a teacher in the country of Namibia in southern Africa. Mr. Butler is a great guy and inspiring teacher. True to form, he credits his fifth grade teacher with giving him the support he needed to become a positive role model. Next time you see him, give him a high five.

Gullett participated in Literacy Week in style this year. First grade teacher Mindy Bass coordinated the first ever Literacy

Night on May 15. The fair was a fun way to support literacy and learning. The games, student creations and poetry readings were all an enormous hit. One of the best parts was the students and teachers dressed up as their favorite book characters; it really got the Geckos' enthusiasm stoked for the event. The Half Price book fair also took place during Literacy Week and lots of Geckos stocked up on their summer reading materials.

Geckos flocked to school on their bikes on National Bike to School Day. In fact, an extra bike rack was brought in to accommodate the vast number of bikes. The Geckos were rewarded with stickers and granola bars as they arrived and parked their bicycles. But the biggest reward, of course, was the ride itself.

While the Geckos will be enjoying the dreamy days of summer, many of them will be keeping the school buzzing with activity while they attend the 30+ fun, fantastic and hands-on summer camps. The kids will stay sharp and busy with

Continued on page 15



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Gullett Good News

Continued from page 13

activities such as movie, art, science, sports and reading camps.

Upcoming events:

August 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: Back-to-School Skate Party

August 22, 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.: Meet the Teacher

August 25: First day of classes. Tardy bell at 7:45!

Ongoing— Keep your eyes on the school calendar at gullettgeckos.com for announcements about Pre-K and Kinder play dates that will happen throughout the summer to help the children meet their future classmates and their parents to begin forming connections. ❖



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Rising temperatures mean summer is nearly here. Until August 15, 2014, receive one free dose of flea/tick treatment (for dogs) or one dose of flea treatment for cats (with an exam). One coupon per pet and coupon required. First exam complimentary for rescue groups and adoptions (within ten days of adoption). Military and first responders receive a 10% discount on procedures.

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Breaking News: Gullett's James Butler Wins Overall AISD Teacher of the Year

Laura Beck

As we go to press, we are excited to report that on Thursday, May 29, Gullett's own James Butler was announced as Austin's Teacher of the Year, out of 6,000 teachers in AISD. Wow!

We congratulate James, and all the amazing teachers and staff at Gullett who have just completed another fantastic year. And well done, AISD. There could be no better choice for Teacher of the Year –anywhere!– than James Butler.

Indulge me in a few words as a Mama of a kiddo who was one of Mr. Butler's pre-K students last year. What this man can do with a group of 20 four and five-year-olds is nothing short of awe inspiring. We have been blessed to have James at Gullett for three years of pre-K now, from his Snakes to his Snowpeople (my own daughter's class) to this year's Sharks, just graduated and moving on to Kinder. These kiddos enter kindergarten already knowing how to read and write, basic math, spelling, and with personalities and confidences that rival second graders. This year's Sharks performed "What Does the Fox Say," with amazing choreography they've retained all year. Each day begins with yoga and positive affirmations that my daughter still remembers today.

Somehow, in his busy life, James manages to attend birthday parties, soccer games, recitals, performances and family gatherings, along with his phenomenally patient girlfriend who also gets to know each child and family like it's her own. Yet at every one of his events –birthdays, holidays, Teacher Appreciation– James refuses gifts of any sort beyond handmade from any of us, asking us instead to channel them to the school in Africa where he taught for a year in 2009.

And while he's only had three years of students, the oldest of which are only now finishing first grade, every student at Gullett, all the way up to the über cool graduating fifth graders, adores Mr. Butler as much as those who've been blessed to be in his classroom. Now I'm painting the



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James Butler and fan

picture of an angel here, but there is a character flaw: the man roots for the Cleveland Browns as if they were actually ever going to have a winning season! Love for the Dog Pound aside, a HUGE congrats to James from all of Gullett, espe-

cially who those graduated in the past three years you've been with us. We are so thankful you are part of us Geckos, appreciate all you give each day, and are cheering you on to now become the TEXAS Teacher of the Year! ❖

Up to date on your ANA dues? See form on back page

Continued on page 16

Lamar Scottie Beat

Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy receives Special Gift of Umlauf Sculpture

March 28 was a special day at Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy, as kids, teachers, parents and members of AISD celebrated the dedication of Charles Umlauf's sculpture, *The Birds*, in what was a previously neglected interior courtyard at the school. That courtyard has now come to life thanks to the Umlauf Family Partnership and specifically Carla Umlauf, the sculptor's granddaughter, who is a Board Member at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum, a local Realtor, and a proud parent to two girls at the Academy.

When Carla and her family adopted the courtyard 20 months ago, she did so with a desire to give back to the school where her two girls are getting a first-rate education and having the time of their lives. The sculpture is shared in the spirit of encouraging a lifelong habit of giving, and it serves as a visible reminder of the

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Lamar Scottie Beat

Continued from page 15

significant impact arts education has on our community and our future. "My family is making this gift in honor of the teachers and patrons of AISD, who make such an impact on our children and community every day," Carla said at the dedication. The area can be used for outdoor classrooms, after-school clubs, PTA

meetings, teacher lunches, or simple reflection.

Charles Umlauf was a prestigious American artist, Professor Emeritus at UT, and a proud Austin resident. He sculpted the series of cast bronze birds in 1960, for the Spirit of Flight fountain at Dallas' brand new Love Field Airport. The Love Field commission still stands today. It was among Umlauf's largest scale public installations, marking a critical period of his development.

To see a video of the dedication ceremony, go to <http://aisdtr.blogspot.com/2014/04/lamar-umlauf-sculpture-dedication-2014.html>.

To learn more about Charles Umlauf and his work, visit The Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum located at 605 Robert E. Lee Road. Or, go to <http://umlaufs-culture.org/>.

To learn more about Carla, go to <http://UmlaufProperties.com>. ❖

Toybrary— A Lending Library for Toys and so Much More!

Laura Beck

Ten years ago, when Liza Wilson was director of the French school in Austin, she learned about Family Connections, an amazing resource in Austin where people could check out toys. Unfortunately, as many of us likely recall, in spring 2010, Family Connections was the victim of a corrupt executive director and shut down.

One year ago this July, Toybrary Austin opened to fill that gap, as a great lending library of toys for kids from infants to

five years old. Liza got her inspiration not only from Family Connections but also from a visit to a friend in New Zealand, where these library-like resources are all over, in neighborhoods, paid for by the government and free to families. Australia and India have the same resources, and once again, thanks to Toybrary, Austin does too.

As a toy lending library, for \$25 a month, you can take out up to three toys at a time, for as long as a month, or as

quickly as you want to trade them in for something else. Teachers can take out five toys at a time. All toys are timeless, high quality, and a bit more old-school, as in requiring imagination, not batteries. Many are wooden, most are educational, and you can select a focus on math, science, language, music, or art (including great art kits, and tools for crafting projects). Liza, with expertise and training in preschool child education is happy to make suggestions based on each kiddo's unique



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But Toybrary Austin is much more than just the lending, it is also a great community destination. Put it on your summer resource list now! You can drop in anytime for \$3 per kid (no charge for adults) for the DAY! Less than \$5 for the whole day, I tell you! Kids can play, parents can meet up. New parents especially love the kindred spirit support they find at Toybrary.

Formal programming, including things like parenting classes and workshops, take place frequently. Nearly every Saturday there is a "Daddy and Me" playdate with fun themes like Robot Building or reptiles. All summer, Toybrary will host camps for kids of all ages, including Bricks for Kids, Mad Science and others. You can find all programming information and options on the website. And space is available for private events, parenting group meetings, birthday parties, and baby showers. It's all very affordable and with full kitchen facilities and a great, fun, playful setting.

Short term memberships are also available. Imagine grandparents or others having little kiddos come to visit in the Sum-



Toybrary action shots

mer (or next Christmas, or anytime). A 10 day membership lets you stock your house with great age-appropriate toys, and enables the kiddo to swap out and get new goodies while they are visiting. You can also give the gift of the monthly membership or a drop in punch card. So when you can't think of the perfect gift, think Toybrary, as any child's dream toy is likely within its walls.

July 8 will mark one year since Liza opened Toybrary Austin. We wish her happy birthday and thank her for making

Allandale her home base for all the goodness that is Toybrary! Stop by yourself, anytime, or especially on Sunday, July 13, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., for the one-year birthday celebration. You can find out more about that, and all the great resources, classes, events and camps on the website at www.toybraryaustin.com, or just call 512-765-4174. Toybrary Austin is at 7817 Rockwood Lane, 78757, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with space available for private events any day or time. ❖

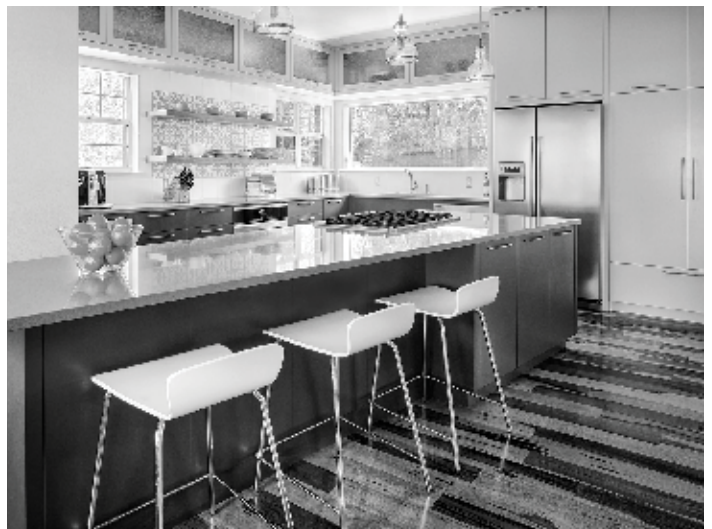
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Dog Talk: Safety on Walks/Unleashed Dogs-- Redux

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 512-454-7219

This article consists of several parts, including safety tips that have been mentioned in earlier newsletters. I have written in response to multiple incidents involving unleashed dogs. In one, a person walking her dog was mobbed by a group of dogs who had escaped their yard. Her dog received injuries as did she. In another, one of our Rosedale neighbors was injured when attempting to intervene as a loose dog attacked his leashed dogs while out on a walk. In still another, a rescuer friend of mine was injured while walking a timid rescue dog when a loose dog attacked them. The dog was seriously injured as well. The fight ended when someone driving by stopped and intervened using a hockey stick they had in their car. In one case, no one was around who knew the loose dog. In the final instance, the guardian was out of sight, just allowing his dog to run on ahead of him!

I would be remiss if I failed to remind folks that they need to keep their dogs on leash while walking on public streets. Even friendly off-leash dogs can cause havoc resulting in injuries. You may be rolling your eyes by now because this topic has been discussed numerous times in different venues. If your dog is off leash and injuries occur, the liability will likely be yours and could have far-reaching repercussions, including problems with your insurance or even the loss of your dog. Fortunately Austin has a number of off-leash parks where folks with this interest can spend time with their dogs.

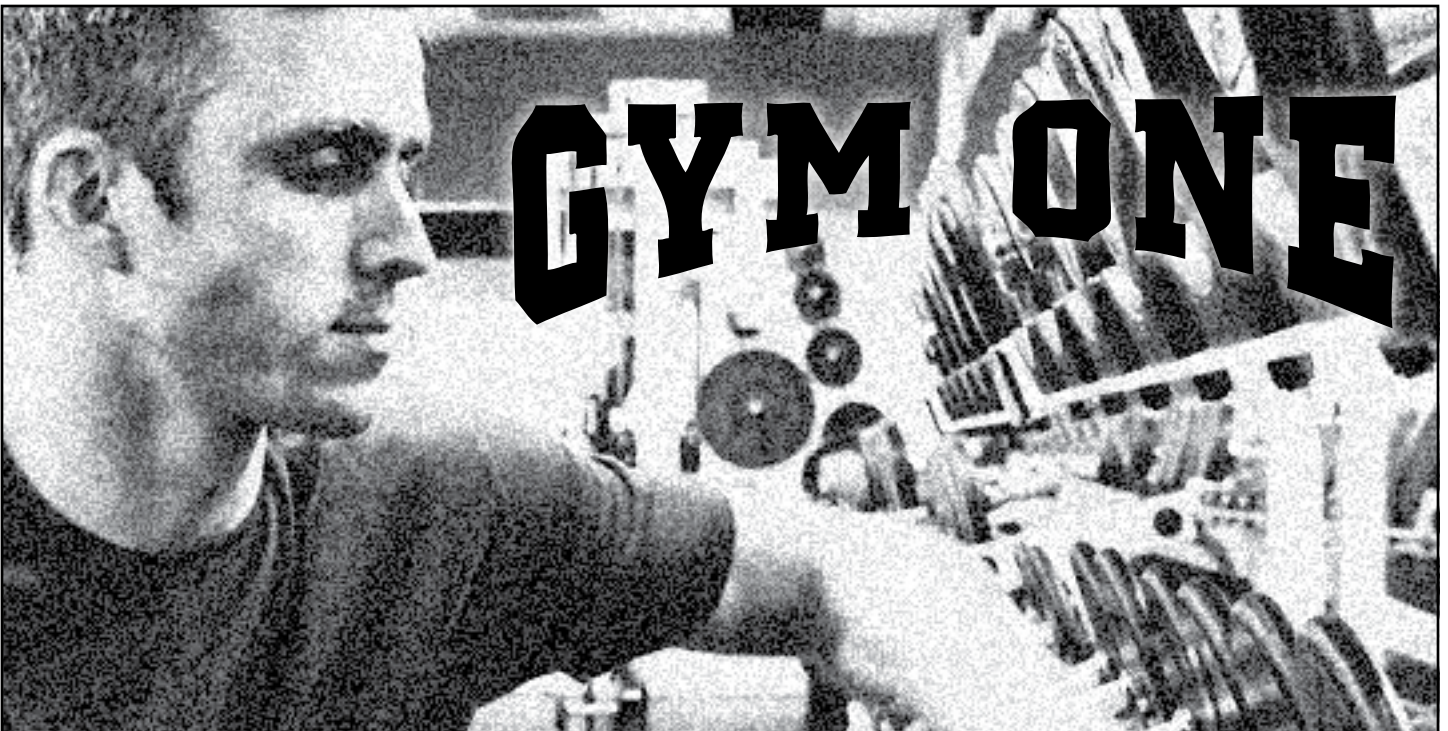
Another risk component is related to maintaining effective containment fencing. Remember to check that objects are not stacked next to fences such that they provide an unintended boost over the fence for your dog. Additionally, after rains it is prudent to walk your fence line and check to see if soil has eroded creat-

ing an invitation to dig out of the yard. Boards decay and when there is a gap a dog can see out of, a reactive dog may start chewing on the wood at that spot and eventually create an opening. Gates need to be secured with locks or carabiners.

Some people leave their dogs loose in the backyard while they are at work. They may be unaware that their dogs are behaving in a problematic manner while home alone. Consider leaving a note for your neighbor about behavior you see while they are away in the same way you would leave a note if you saw someone behaving suspiciously around their home.

I would be very happy to come and look at your fencing and talk about containment strategies for your specific situation. I have some ideas that are effective and very inexpensive to implement.

Finally, some tips for the neighbors on foot for keeping safe. The following is



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from a previous newsletter, with slight modification. First, and most important, I recommend carrying a compact pop-open umbrella on walks. If you see a strange off-leash dog approaching, as the dog gets near, hold it low with the top of the umbrella pointed to the dog then pop it open both to frighten the dog and to create a bit of a barrier between you and your dog and the strange dog.

Second, purchase a hefty key chain (or use one of those old-fashioned metal shower curtain hooks) and load it up with keys and heavy metal washers you don't need. If a strange dog approaches, hurl the key chain at the dog— I usually aim for the dog's hindquarters. It will startle the dog— wild animals that hunt in packs will have one member who attacks the

rear end so dogs are sensitive to a rear "attack."

Wearing a hat that you can hurl at the dog may turn a dog around. Also, throw that bag with the poop you picked up at the dog.

I buy "Direct Stop" from Omaha Vaccine (<http://www.omahavaccine.com>). It is a potent spray in a pocket-sized aerosol container that disperses citronella spray— a substance dogs really don't like. It is a bit pricey, but it really is effective and it causes no harm to anyone, even your own dogs, should it blow in your direction.

Finally, I want to warn people against entrusting their young children to walk dogs. Young children are not strong enough to control most dogs they walk. If a leashed dog is determined to pull




away, they can generally accomplish it (a 24 lb. basenji I know of actually won a contest pulling a cart that weighed over 1100 pounds). ❖

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Partners in Parenting: New Non Profit for New Parents

Allandale neighbor Carolyn Opps, along with Krista Miller, formed Partners in Parenting (PIP) in late 2013 out of need, as well as inspiration from a similar group in Seattle. The idea is to have a neighborhood-based support group just for new moms and dads. And we are pleased to let you know PIP is up and running with its first programming!

PIP helps bring together expectant or new parents who live nearby and are going through the pregnancy and new baby phases at the same time. Friendships formed at PIP extend far beyond the baby years with children growing up together and parents continuing support relationships with others at their same life

phases of parenting. Founder and volunteer coordinator, Carolyn, lives in the hood with her husband and toddler daughter and shares this:

“Calling all new Allandale parents! Partners in Parenting (PIP) is a new non-profit in Austin providing neighborhood-based programs that enable parents of newborns and infants to create tight-knit communities in order to meet the challenges of parenting through mutual support and shared information.

Early parenthood comes with a wide range of emotions and experiences—from triumphs and elation to fear and loneliness. Many parents expect the highs and the happiness but are often caught

off guard when feelings of insecurity and isolation creep in. It's a time when, more than ever, a support system is needed. Unfortunately, that support system is not always easy to come by. That's where your PIP group comes in!

As one of the PIP founders, and an Allandale resident, I am especially excited to help create and facilitate an Allandale PIPsqueaks group for families with children newborn to four months old. Daytime groups are offered for moms and babies, and our nighttime groups are for both parents and babies, although all are welcome. To learn more about our program, please check out our website at www.pipaustin.org.” ❖

Introducing Our Family Home Care: Home (Allandale) is Where Our Heart Is



Two Allandale neighbors have come together to start a new company, Our Family Home Care (OFHC). Co-founders and owners Ann Boyd and Jene Ebest are both former Special Education teachers with passions for and much experience in helping others. Ann worked at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as well The Johnson Center for Child Health and Development, a specialty clinic that provides treatment for children with Autism.

Both are also active Allandalers with kids who are at or have gone through Gullett and Lamar. Countless Girl Scout cookies have moved through the Ebest house over the years, for scouts in Allandale and beyond, and both families have logged many hours at Northwest Little League. We chatted with Ann and Jene to learn more about their new business.

OFHC is a non-medical home care agency with a full spectrum of care to help senior citizens and people with disabilities continue to live independently in their own homes, including those right in our neighborhood. Ann says they started the business as families with both school aged children and aging parents, understanding the stress of feeling pulled in

two directions regarding taking care of your loved ones, and wanting to help others in those same situations. In particular, Ann's husband's mother has Parkinson's; and after trying many care options including assisted living, they were able to find an amazing caregiver who enables her to live at home, with peace of mind to the family that she is safe and her daily needs are being met. This high quality home care is the vision that is OFHC.

OFHC helps clients with everything from health support and dietary planning to personal care needs and running errands. Jene says they are building the business on the “Mom Standard”—always asking the question “is this the standard of care I would want for my own mother?”

To meet the “Mom Standard,” OFHC uses a rigorous employment screening process in compliance with state-mandated requirements as well as an in-depth interview process. Potential caregivers go through extensive training to ensure they always keep up with their clients' special dietary concerns, exercises, medication schedules and follow up visits with doctors. The OFHC team works with their client, the family, their doctors and other service providers to develop effective and

meaningful care plans.

Quality care is maintained through ongoing supervision and assessment of caregivers and follow-ups with the client and their family. Maintaining plans is vital in ensuring the health of OFHC clients and avoiding re-admittance to hospitals and rehab facilities. Any changes or concerns are shared with the family quickly and plans adjusted accordingly. And beyond open and frequent communications, OFHC also utilizes a home care software program that allows family members access to a portal where they can view the daily activities performed with their loved one and review caregiver and agency notes.

OFHC delivers a better experience for the client and their family because the focus is to be as committed to their clients as they would be to their own family. The OFHC approach is designed to ensure that all of the little things needed to maintain a household are taken care of so loved ones can focus on spending quality time together. We wish Jene and Ann great success! For more information go to www.ourfamilyhomecare.com or call 512-522-2949. ❖

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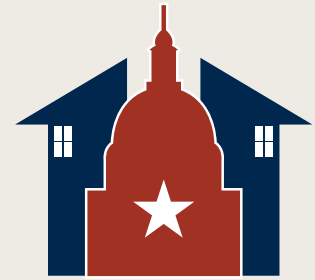


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Join Neighbors and ANA to Oppose Maund's Proposed Four-level Parking Garage

Continued from front page

There are also concerns that the day-to-day operation of the Maund dealership goes past the boundaries of the site and is incompatible with single-family life. The proposed garage will be only 25 feet from homes and will create light, heat, and noise pollution at nearby residences. The dealership already adds congestion and traffic to this area of Allandale, especially with trucks delivering vehicles and test drives. The garage would mean additional Maund inventory, which potentially adds more traffic, noise, etc.

Opticos Design, consultants hired in 2013 by the city of Austin to rewrite the Land Development Code (LDC), has taken notice of the erosion of neighborhoods from this type of development. In

its Land Development Code Diagnosis Opticos wrote:

Compromising the Character of Communities

Throughout Austin, parking garages and surface parking lots in residential, commercial, and mixed-use areas, are beginning to have more and more of a predominant presence, and are slowly eroding the unique character of communities, in particular in central Austin neighborhoods. It is hard to notice these incremental changes, but due to their long-term impact on the quality of Austin communities, as well as their impact on the desire to be compact and connected, it is an

issue that needs to be discussed during the process and addressed in the LDC update.

Neighbors have joined together to have a voice in setting commercial standards that are compatible with residential areas. We rely on our city officials to preserve our neighborhoods and protect our quality of life. Let the City of Austin and Maund Volkswagen hear from you. Again, consider signing the online petition here, which also details more: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/737/201/872/petition-to-protect-allandale/>.

If you have any questions or want to be further involved in this effort contact Peggy at maceostudios@aol.com. ❖

President's Letter - Fighting the Good Fight

Continued from page 2

ment of commercial development closer to people's homes.

City staff has recommended making these requested changes because there are already other commercial properties nearby. But if that's the case, once these properties become commercial, does that mean it will be easier to turn the adjacent single family homes into more commercial properties later? At what point does it stop? Will parts of our neighborhood someday be like the areas west of the courthouse downtown that used to be single family but now are dominated by offices or retail?

After much discussion, the Executive Committee voted to support changing the zoning at 2117 Northland where Briley's has operated many years without proper zoning, but voted to oppose the other two projects. After commercial zoning was approved by the Zoning and Planning Commission for all three tracts in late May, the issue will be heard by the city council in mid-June.

Finally, in the northern part of Allandale, Maund Volkswagen has proposed construction of a four-story garage. According to nearby neighbors, the car dealership already has had a negative impact due to noise from unloading vehicles in the middle of the night, test drives through the area, etc., and there are serious concerns, beyond just the aesthetics of having such a large structure in people's backyards, that the new garage will compound these problems. ANA's Executive Committee voted to support affected neighbors by opposing the current plans. Please see the article elsewhere in this newsletter about a petition effort to help encourage Maund to come to the table and work to address the concerns neighbors have raised.

These are just a few of the issues we are currently working on. As you can see, our plate is full and the issues that are happening today will affect the very core of our neighborhood's future. We may not win every issue but I can promise

that ANA will be at the table and we are going to put up a good fight. Interested in helping join the effort? Here's a few ways you can help:

1) If you haven't already, please formally join the neighborhood association. Our power to advocate on your behalf is easier when we have strength in numbers. That \$7 or \$15 membership due also helps provide us with needed resources.

2) Consider volunteering for a committee. Help is always needed on issues like zoning and safety.

3) We are looking for neighbors to be on the Executive Committee next year. Interested? Contact me or Kata Carbone, our Nominations Committee Chair. Kata can be reached at allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com.

Questions, comments, concerns? Feel free to reach me at 512-626-0113 or send an email to dmintztx@yahoo.com (please put ANA in the subject line). ❖

Have you joined ANA's Newsgroup? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/allandale/> to sign up.

Celebrate Allandale: Love & Protect It.

The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) depends on your annual membership & participation to stay a strong local group. Help us represent your interests by getting involved.

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